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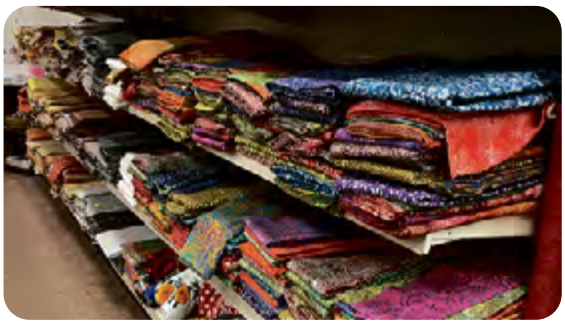

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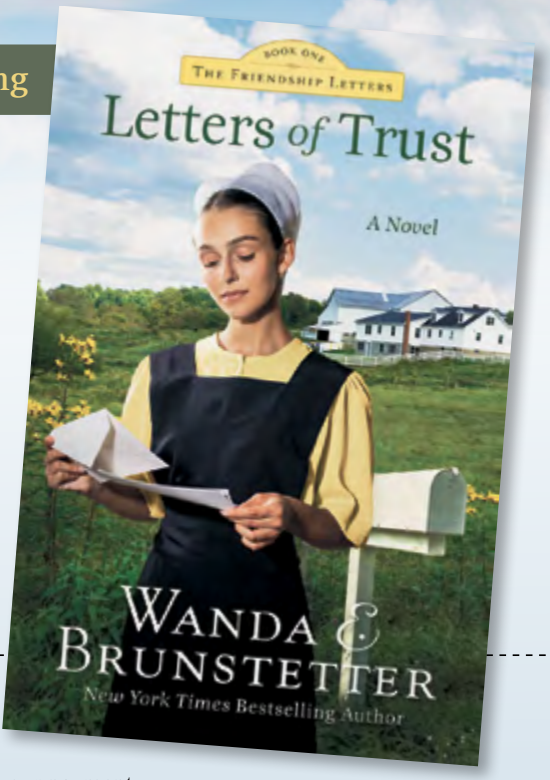

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Taste

Lancaster County at the

Locally Made Food Shop

Locally Made Food Shop is your one–stop–shop for the best of what Lancaster County has to offer. Tasty, made–from–scratch baked goods come from neighbor and sister business, Miller's Bakery. The same bakery that supplies Miller's Smorgasbord with its amazing freshly baked breads and desserts. You will find Miller's World–Famous Chocolate Pecan Pie, sticky buns, and shoofly pie as well as fresh raisin bread, rolls and more. Plus, locally made jams and jellies, oils, vinegars, pickled vegetables, dressings, mustards, and sauces will allow you to bring home a taste of Lancaster that can be added to many meals to come. You will, also, find Lancaster County made honey, coffee, jerky, popcorn, fudge, pretzels and much more.

Route 30 Traffic Jam is a staff favorite. It is a jam that includes peaches, strawberries, cherries, red raspberries, and cranberries. Other staff favorites include: whoopie pies, garlic balsamic, Christmas Jam, and the cheesy garlic dressing. Manager, Jill Jones, states "I am focused on providing an amazing experience by offering unique, local items that folks can't find on their own that are all made here in Lancaster County."

Lancaster County foods make great gifts so many folks stock up for holiday gift giving. To make gift giving even easier, Locally Made created their new Taste of Lancaster County Gift Boxes. There are over 7 uniquely themed boxes to choose from. Current themes include chocolate, jam and pancake mix, sweet & salty, hot sauces and oils, spices, pickled items, and pretzels. These boxes make gift buying for friends, family, business, and employee appreciation simple. The boxes can be shipped, delivered locally, or picked up from the store.

You can even have the friendly staff help you create your own special gift boxes with your favorites. There is also

USA kitchenware and gift ware available which can complement the food items you selected and give your gift a special touch. The store is open 7 days a week and is located right next to Miller's Smorgasbord.

The QUILT SHOP at Miller's

The Quilt Shop at Miller's has a huge selection of local made quilted items from wall hangings to handstitched quilts, quillows to table runners. All are handcrafted by local Amish and Mennonite artisans. The Quilt Shop is unique in that all its quilts are handstitched here in Lancaster County. This 3,500 square foot showroom offers a huge selection of quilts. This is the go–to store in Lancaster County due to its quality, selection, value, and customer service.

Their expert staff will help you find the perfect quilt for your home and demonstrate the intricacies of stitching, colors, and pattern. They will also be able to help provide guidance on how to best care for these beautiful works of art.

Two key tips from the staff at the Quilt Shop for those coming to Lancaster County to shop for a handstitched quilt:

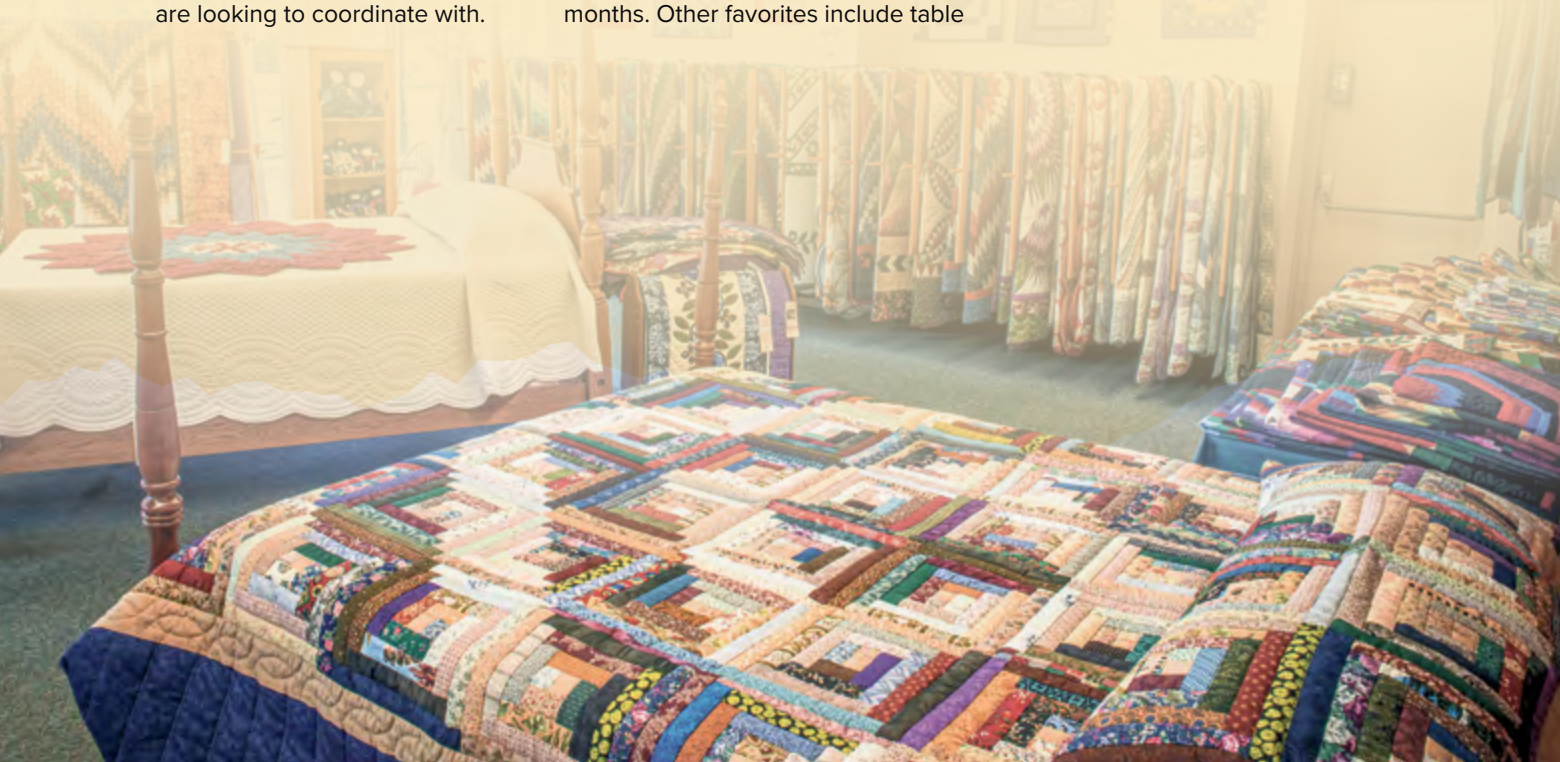
1. Measure your bed and make sure to include the length you want it to drop down the sides and bottom of the bed as handmade quilts are not standard sizes as the pattern will determine the size.
2. Bring along the colors that you are looking to coordinate with.

Understanding the different types of quilts is also helpful when shopping. Quilts fall into three categories: pieced, applique and whole cloth. Pieced quilts are made by cutting pieces of different fabrics to be sewn together to make the design. Common designs include Log Cabin, Double Wedding Ring and 9 Patch. Applique quilts are cut out and hand sewn to a larger piece of fabric, or "applied" to the fabric. The designs are usually floral, possibly with birds or hearts and include Spring Basket, Heart Bouquet, and Heart of Roses. Whole cloth quilts – this quilt is one "whole" piece of fabric that is cut to the bed's size and requires a master hand quilter. It is intricately hand quilted with feathers, cables, diamonds, birds, and hearts patterns, and include Heirloom, Hershey, and Pineapple designs. The experts at The Quilt Shop can work with you to find the perfect quilt for your home.

Although known for the beauty and quality of the quilts the store sells, there are many other quilted and handmade items available. A favorite is the quillow which is a quilted blanket that folds up in a pillow. It looks amazing on your sofa year–round and can be pulled out to snuggle under during the colder months. Other favorites include table runners, throw pillows, wall hangings, spice mats, placemats, and aprons. For the children, we have cloth books, stuffed puppies and cats, and a variety of crib quilts. Plus, there are wooden crafts that include wooden boxes and quilt stands, which are also made by local woodworkers. These are just a few of the items that the store carries so come in or go online to check out all the possibilities.

The Quilt Shop at Miller's will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in June. Every person that comes to the store in June will have the chance to enter their name in a drawing to win a quillow made by local quilters. On each Wednesday in June from 11 AM – 1 PM, The Quilt Shop will have a local artisan doing live quilting demonstrations. On June 21st, the store will host an anniversary celebration with live demonstrations from 11 AM – 1 PM. Also, the first 50 customers that day will receive a special gift. The store is excited to introduce folks to the beauty of these amazing works of art.

The Quilt Shop at Miller's is next to Miller's Smorgasbord at 2811 Lincoln Highway East (Route 30), Ronks, PA 17572.



The Winner is...

ACN 2022 Photo Contest Winners

ACN 2023 Photo Contest Now Accepting Entries!

Amish Country is one of the most photographed areas in the world. Got great photos? Send them to us and see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News and win prizes!

Visit AmishCountryNews.com for Photo Contest prizes and more info. Email your HIGH RESOLUTION ONLY photos in JPG format to clinton@amishexperience.com (minimum size 8x10 at 300 DPI). Put *2023 Photo Contest* in the subject line. File names should contain your name. Include your name, address and phone number with brief details of location and subject matter in the email. No more than five photos can be submitted. LOW RESOLUTION PIXELATED IMAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Photos become property of Amish Country News / Amish Experience and may be used in upcoming issues, publications, and promotional materials.

Every year, I look daily at my inbox to see what pictures may have come in as entries in our Annual Photo Contest. Each time I click to open a photo, I am a little excited, because I never know what I may see. Sometimes I actually gasp with delight, or give a soft–spoken "Wow" under my breath. This year was no exception.

Grand Prize Winner

"Evening Sunset Wheat"

Suzanne Mayer
Lafayette Township, NJ

This sunset picture was taken from our campsite at Country Acres Campground from campsite 864 when we were there in June. We were lucky to have such a beautiful view across the farm field from our campsite.

Second Place Winner

"Curious Cows"

Marlin Bennetch
Birmingham, AL

This well–maintained farm is symbolic of the PA Dutch countryside and the Cows were extremely curious and interested in me.

Third Place Winner

"From Children, Comes Faith & Inspired Graffiti"

Thomas Herr
Narvon, PA

Taken outside of a One–Room School house. As you can see, the children were using dried leaves to spell out God's feelings.

Honorable Mention

"Harvest Time in Churchtown"

Ray Smecker
Lancaster, PA

I stopped at this spot and looked up and saw this grand gathering of a bounty from our very peaceful valley.

Antiquing in Amish Country

By Ed Blanchette

Do you enjoy searching for antiques? Perhaps you are looking for that special something, or you just enjoy searching for a surprise to add to your home decor. Maybe you hope to find an item worthy of an "Antique Roadshow." Whatever you discover, once you find it, it becomes your personal treasure.

What makes Lancaster County such a great place to go antiquing? One obvious answer would be that this area has a rich history going back hundreds of years to the first settlers in the early 1700's. Many of us have stuff in our attics that we have forgotten about, or inherited. Who knows what may be out there either at a yard sale or an antique shop?

Here in Lancaster County we boast thousands of antique shops and dealers. The Adamstown area alone has over 3,000 antiques dealers, and is known as Antiques Capital, U.S.A. The many locations stretch out along Route 272, just off Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 286.

Whether you are after a rarity, or just something old that intrigues you, you'll find everything from sheet music to music boxes, pocket watches to kitchen sinks, nostalgic clothes to beautiful wardrobes to hang them in. Glassware, crafts, toys, clothes, artwork, china, quilts and fabrics, memorabilia...the list is endless!

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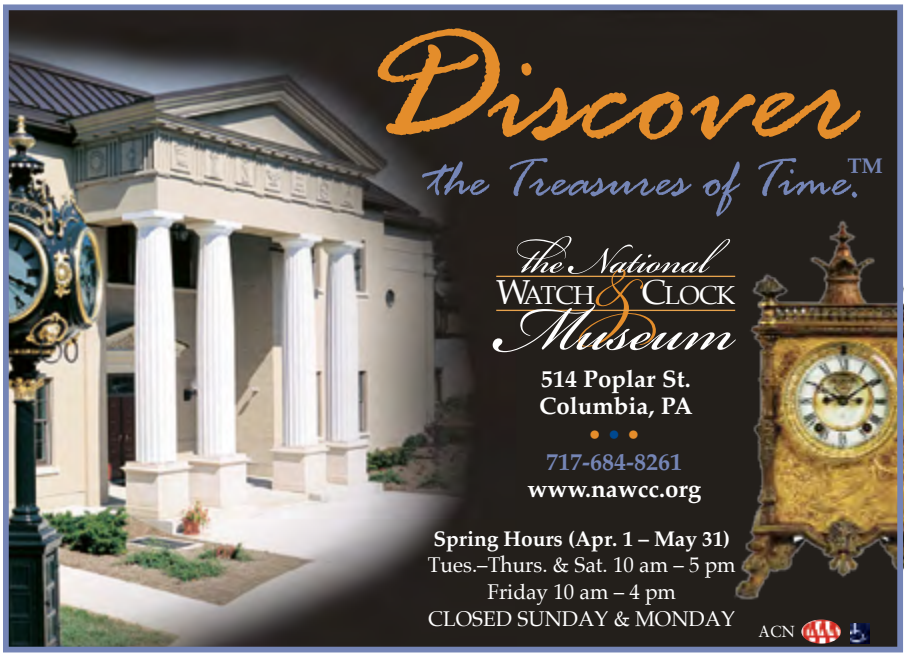

Like sands through the hourglass...this is Amish Hospital

By Clinton Martin

In December of 2021, Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, the much–loved all–you–care–to–eat, family–style restaurant, closed its doors forever, bringing to a close a multigenerational business that had delighted tourists since the 1960's.

The title of this article of course borrows its name from the world of soap operas and while the story of the venerated Smoketown landmark's transition from restaurant to healthcare hasn't been quite that dramatic, at times it has reminded me of a daytime TV plot twist.

The Amish seek professional healthcare when needed. They have no prohibition against modern medicine. So, seeing Amish at our local Lancaster County hospitals is not unusual. Yet, there is some culture clash that goes on, which became much more apparent in 2020 during the pandemic.

The appetite for the Amish to have their own hospital, where they would feel completely at home and comfortable, a modern healthcare facility without the culture shock, had been simmering under the surface for years. 2020 simply brought it to a boil.

When the Good 'N Plenty building went on the market, a group of Amish investors quickly formed and bought it. The investor group chartered themselves as Well Spring Care Incorporated. Their vision was to create a hospital, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, staffed by professional, accredited physicians, open for anyone, but with a specific bent on serving the self–pay, Amish, Mennonite, and other Plain Community customers, with culturally sensitive and appropriate care.

Today, the building more or less sits idle – the vision being a bit more elusive and difficult to attain than

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Services Currently Needed for Opening:

Urgent and Primary Care - Urgent and primary care can be a costly, and sometimes unexpected, expense for self-pay patients. With an urgent and primary care center, this ensures our patients are seen in a timely manner and offered affordable care

Functional Medicine - We recognize the need and desire for natural alternative treatments under a doctor's or nurse's care. Functional medicine identifies the root cause of the issue and treats each patient as a unique case

Phlebotomy for Lab Tests - This would allow all necessary testing to be completed in-house rather than outsourcing to a network-owned lab. Ultimately, it will save patients money.

Imaging - Dr. Chowdhury shed light on the imaging shortage in our community. A free-standing imaging center would allow self-pay patients to affordably obtain services as well as an overflow of patients from other imaging centers

Pharmacy - At our pharmacy, we hope to offer supplements recommended by providers and possibly prescription medications

what the investors had originally thought. Healthcare in America is highly regulated, with a compliance bureaucracy that the uninitiated can find quite daunting. The Amish haven't given up on turning a former 600 seat restaurant into their own hospital, but the process is moving from idealistic, well–intentioned naivete into a pragmatic, drawn–out, slog to get there.

While the real estate itself has been purchased, and all the restaurant equipment has been emptied out and sold, renovations, medical equipment, and perhaps most importantly, hiring doctors, is the next step. Well Spring Care has established a $1.5 million fundraising goal for start–up money to accomplish this step. So far, 35% of this has been raised from community donations, from individuals, companies, and churches. They are also actively seeking an out–sourced, experienced management partner to run the facility. An entity with compliance and regulation knowledge and expertise.

For now, the vision is there, and the goal is being pursued. Time will tell if Lancaster County will indeed see an "Amish Hospital" serving patients.

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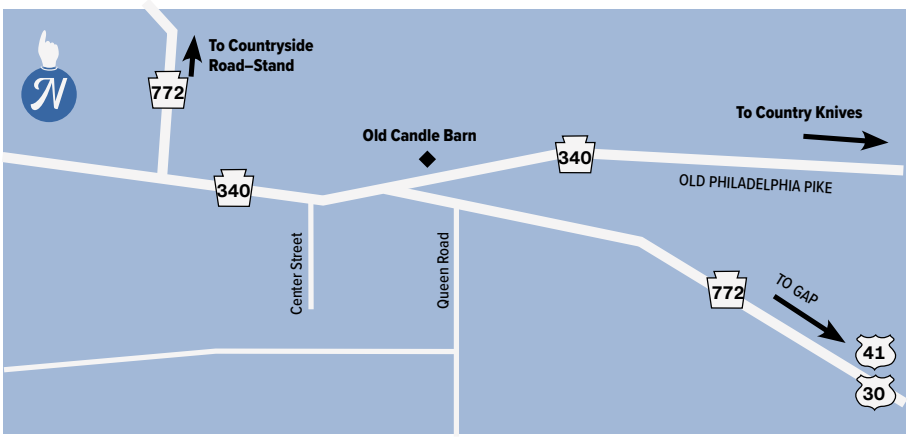
Intercourse

It's More Than a Name



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on one simple thing — its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird–in–Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of $250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one–inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll–up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

Rhubarb is the harbinger of spring in Pennsylvania Dutch Country, and every year Kitchen Kettle Village pays tribute with a two–day food festival filled with delicious and sometimes zany events. *Friday, May 19th 9am – Saturday, May 20th 6pm is the "Kitchen Kettle 39th Annual Rhubarb Festival" 3529 Old Philadelphia Pike,Intercourse, PA 17534*

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2760 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for $6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the Visitor's Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must–visit for everyone.

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BOOK REVIEW

Reflections on Life from an Old Order Amish Magazine

LNP 2/26/23

In the summer of 2016, Robert Alexander wrote two brief essays for the Amish monthly magazine Family Life. He wondered how Amish farmers could continue to thrive as land prices rise and commodity prices fall. "Unless we make some changes in our attitude, we may be seeing the sun setting on our culture," Alexander wrote. With Amish population doubling every 18 to 20 years and if the number of Amish farms remains the same, he explained, the percentage of Amish farmers will be halved in two decades.

"At that rate, it will take only another fifty years in some communities until only 2 percent of us will be farmers," he estimated. "That is the same as in the American population as a whole. If that isn't where we want to go, we will have to very consciously do something about it. And soon."

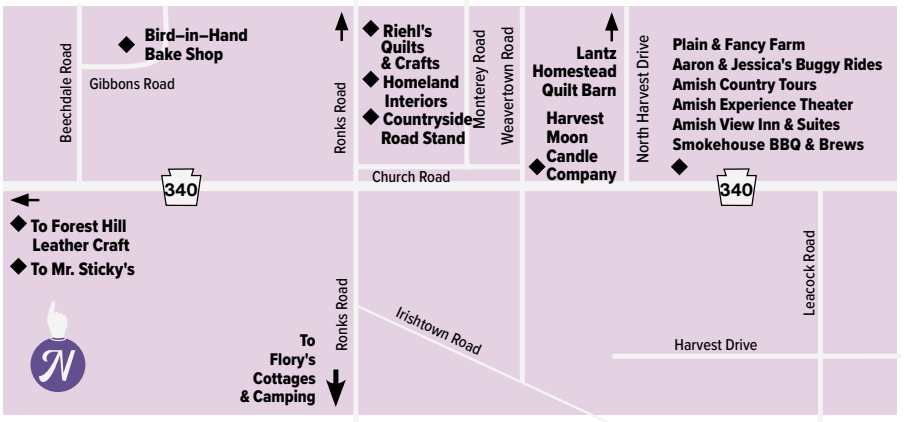
The Amish purchase nearly every available farm in many of their settlements, including Lancaster County. They migrate to newer settlements. They are spreading out across the country. But will that be enough? Alexander posed but did not answer his question. No one can answer it definitively. But it is instructive that a problem that plagues society in general — increasing population, diminishing agricultural land — concerns an Amish writer looking half a century into the future.

Family Life is filled with such musings about farming, marriage, aging and other essential subjects. Since 1968, Pathways Publishers in Ontario, Canada, has printed

Cont'd on Page 19

Bird-in-Hand

Discover the Charm



The Lancaster Quilt Show

31st annual Lancaster Quilt Show – 45 Vendors, over 100 quilts from antique to modern, classes and a free raffle to win over $1,300 worth of donated product.
Free admission and free parking.

Thursday, March 29th 9am – Saturday, April 1st 4pm "Lancaster Quilt Show" at the Horst Resort by Wyndham, 2285 East Lincoln Hwy, Lancaster PA 17602

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird–in–Hand.

The story of the town of Bird–in–Hand is as colorful as the name itself. To be correct, the town is really a village, since it has no governing body. When Bird–in–Hand celebrated its 250th Anniversary (1734–1984), a commemorative booklet was put together. It outlined a brief history of the town...

The William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods (Pennsylvania), and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from the port city of Philadelphia. English Quakers and Swiss Mennonites were the early settlers. The Quakers built a meetinghouse and two–story academy, which stands today, next to the fire company. But over the years, the Germans "made the greatest lasting impact."

A friendly relationship existed between the early settlers and the Shawnee and Conestoga Indians, who were, of course, the area's first inhabitants. They taught settlers how to deaden trees, use deerskin, prepare corn as food, and use medicinal herbs. But as the white settlement grew, there was less hunting available, and many Indians became peddlers or beggars.

"When the Old Philadelphia Pike became a well–established route of transportation for those traveling west to the Alleghenies, Lancaster became known as the gateway to the west."

Cont'd on Page 15

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For more than a decade, Nature's Rite has been making natural products that address many common health needs. From respiratory infections to back & neck pain, eczema to food poisoning these products have come to the rescue in cases where commercial western medicine simply fails. These well designed holistic, all–natural solutions address problems completely and are based on science as well as North–American herbology.

The Nature's Rite philosophy is to design products that offer a well–rounded and complete solution. They: 1) Relieve the symptoms, 2) Fix the problem and 3) Help the body to heal. This holistic approach is more sophisticated than typical single–herb preparations. Yet, the customer need not be an herbal expert to apply them. Each product is directed towards a particular malady and contains all of the ingredients necessary to accomplish this 3–point holistic solution. If you are having digestive problems... we have a Digestive Rehabilitation Kit. If you have sinus problems, we have Sinus Kits to choose from. If you have Sleep Apnea or Restless legs... Each product is a complete solution for each problem.

All of our remedies are made in an FDA audited GMP facility right here in Sarasota Florida. We take great pride in making the best products for you and we are constantly testing them to ensure quality and effectiveness. If you are a scientific type, just contact us and ask for some of our testing reports. If you like to read about the formulations to understand why we selected the ingredients, we offer a book called HealthCare ToolKit that explains everything that you need to maintain the health of your family naturally.

Of course, all of our products are backed by our un–conditional money–back guarantee. If you are not happy with the product for any reason, we will refund the cost upon return. Our return rate is very, very low. In fact, we think that once you try one of our products, you will want to try them all. And you can. We have some heavily discounted assortment boxes to meet the most common health–tool needs and save you money!

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Bird–in–Hand

Cont'd from Page 13

The trip by stagecoach for passengers, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building.

The reason for these signs was twofold. First, they could be understood by all nationalities. Secondly, many teamsters or wagoneers were poorly educated and could not read. If they were given orders to stop at a certain inn, they could do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The old legend of the naming of Bird–in–Hand concerns the time when this pike was being laid out. Legend says that two road surveyors were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or go to the town of Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and so they remained. The sign in front is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched," and soon was known as the Bird–in–Hand Inn.

The original hotel was destroyed by fire about 1851. By the following year, a three–story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was known as Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird–in–Hand, now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County noted that it "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity."

The Bird–in–Hand Mill, built by James Gibbons in 1770 at the west end of town, "is probably the oldest mill in Lancaster County that is still being used" commercially, now known as Nolt's Mill. The datestone in the wall has the misspelled word "biult," perhaps an error made by a local German.

Gibbons is an important name in the town's history. Quaker activists, the Gibbonses operated the primary "underground railroad station" for slaves escaping from the South. It is said that Hannah and Daniel Gibbons helped about 1,000 slaves. "A single tap on the window at night indicated to everyone in the family that a fugitive was there. The escapees were taken to the barn and in the morning brought to the house separately," where each was given a new identity.

Cont'd on Page 16

OPEN SUNDAYS IN AMISH COUNTRY

For Plain People, Sunday is a day of rest, but there are many things to do in Amish Country on Sundays. Save some of these for your Sunday sight–seeing.

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Choo Choo Barn
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Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
717–898–1900 | www.DutchApple.com

Hershey's Chocolate World
717–534–4900 | www.Hersheys.com

Jake's Country Trading Post
(717) 687–8980 | www.JakesHomeAccents.com

Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery
717–626–4354 | www.JuliusSturgis.com

Miller's Smorgasbord
800–669–3568 | www.MillersSmorgasbord.com

Renninger's Antique Market
717–336–2177 | www.Renningers.net

Shupp's Grove
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The year 1834 marked the beginning of construction of the 86–mile Pennsylvania Railroad line between Philadelphia and Columbia. Bird–in–Hand, with its tanneries, feed mills, coal and lumberyards, was the most important stop on the Lancaster to Coatesville section. Horses were used to pull the cars. In 1836 a second track was laid and locomotives began pulling the cars.

Well into the 1900's, everything from flowers to live ducks were shipped from the village to large cities by the railroad. As late as the 1950's, mail was "hung from a long arm and caught by a moving train."

Even with a bridge over the tracks, there were fatalities and an underpass was dug so that the main street would go under the train tracks. It opened in 1928. To this day, road traffic goes under the train tracks on Rte. 340. Some of the other interesting businesses around the village over the years have included a Christmas tree plantation, archery targets, potato chips, dried corn, ceramics, wagons, carriages, and raising ducks.

The town post office was established in 1836 as the Enterprise Post Office. "Enterprise" was then the official name of the town, until the final change back to Bird–in–Hand in 1873.

After a fire in 1896, people discussed the need for a fire company. In the early days, hitting a circular saw alerted the men of a fire. The year 1916 saw the change from horse–drawn to motorized fire equipment. Today the Hand–in–Hand Fire Company remains a volunteer organization, famous for its delicious fund–raiser dinners.

The town of Bird–in–Hand remained relatively unknown until a musical called PLAIN & FANCY opened in New York. The show Playbill noted that "The action takes place in and around Bird–in–Hand, a town in the Amish country of Pennsylvania." The cast was brought to Bird–in–Hand on January 17, 1955, prior to the official opening.

Today, the town of Bird–in–Hand is still small, said to have a population of only about 300 people. On any given day, there may be more visitors than inhabitants. Many are city–folks who have come to enjoy the country atmosphere, history, and shopping. It is said that visitors can "still expect friendly shopkeepers, homegrown Lancaster County foods, and restful lodging for weary travelers."

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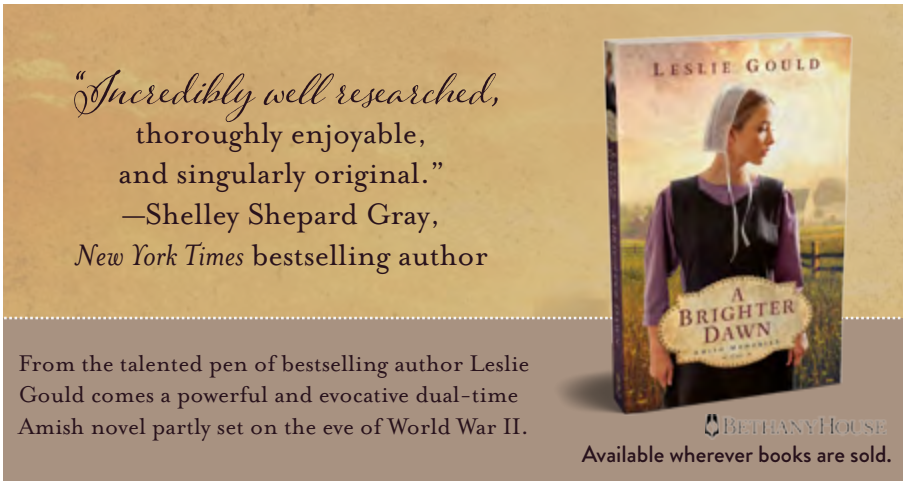
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Pennsylvania's First Black Judge Was No Stranger to the Amish

By Clinton Martin

In October of 1947, Pennsylvania's governor, James Duff, appointed Herbert Millen to complete a term on the bench in Philadelphia. Judge Millen was a Lancaster–County native, and notably the State's first Black jurist.

Judge Millen was born in the City of Lancaster, though most of his youth was spent in the nearby small town of Strasburg, a historic community still today surrounded by Amish farmland. Millen was the first Black student to attend Strasburg High School, from which he graduated in 1906 as valedictorian. He went on to study at Lincoln University (America's first Historically–Black–College.)

When Judge Millen decided he wanted to go to college, he had to earn the money to enroll. In Strasburg, especially at that time, when a young man wanted to earn money, he hired himself out to a local farmer. Millen worked on the farm of Galen Barr, where he did all manner of farm work, but especially excelled at lucrative, but labor–intensive, tobacco. Millen is quoted as saying "By the time I was 14, I could follow a full–grown man spudding tobacco. I wasn't so fast on cutting it, but I sure could spud."

Spudding tobacco is the action of spearing it onto a stick so that it can be hung up to air–dry, such as in the rafters of barns. Descendants of Galen Barr still have a farm south of Strasburg (and a stand at Central Market in Lancaster City where you can buy their produce.)

Judge Millen was not only proud of his "spudding" talent; he was also decidedly proud of being from Lancaster County and was even fluent in PA Dutch. He very likely honed his language skills working with his Amish and Mennonite neighbors in the tobacco fields. His great–grandparents, John and Susan Seachrist Warner, were German speakers as well, so it may have been handed down in his family.

SUNDAY NEWS

LANCASTER, PA., SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1941

County Native Gives Alger Story New Twist—

He's Kept The Log Cabin

Strasburg Negro, Now Assistant Director Of Public Safety In Philadelphia, Is Proudest Of Ability As Tobacco Spudder

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Book Review Cont'd from Page 12

thousands of essays by in–house Old Order Amish editors, as well as letters from subscribers throughout North America, including the Lancaster settlement.

In 2000, Brad Igou, then vice president and general manager of the Amish Experience in Bird–in–Hand, assembled selected passages from the first 25 years of Family Life and made them into a book, "The Amish in Their Own Words." Now retired, Igou has assembled a second book of selections titled "Amish Voices (Volume 2): In Their Own Words, 1993–2020." Herald Press published both books. Igou has selected writings he believes best represent the magazine, its subscribers and the Old Order Amish Church. The Scribbler has space for two...

Mark and Dora Stoll observed a young man on a long bus trip repeatedly taking his smartphone from his pocket and consulting it. The Stolls decided he was addicted to the device. "We had to think of people who feel sorry for us Amish, convinced that we are 'bound by traditions' while they in the world are 'free,'" they wrote in January 2013. "To us this addiction to the cell phone appeared as being bound in the true sense of the word."

In the second writing, S.J. Lehman said he loves lakes and ponds because the clarity of the water so vividly reflects sunsets. Puddles, on the other hand, he wrote, are muddy, an "overflow of clogged ground."

The writer said he knows people who are as "beautifully useful" as a lake and as "calmly necessary" as a pond. Others are like puddles: "obscure, seemingly worthless. A tiny border and murky water."

He always thought of those people as having a "colorless existence." But then, Lehman wrote, "in a muddy puddle in the middle of our rutted driveway, I saw the sunset."

Igou's second book of selections from Family Life is another breath of fresh air — yes, from the barnyard, but also from the sweeter scent of a community toiling and worshiping together.

Jack Brubaker, retired from the LNP staff, writes "The Scribbler" column every Sunday. He welcomes comments and contributions at scribblerlnp@gmail.com.

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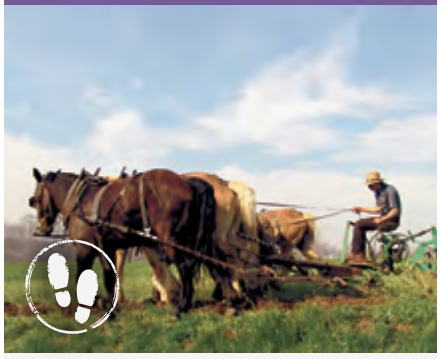

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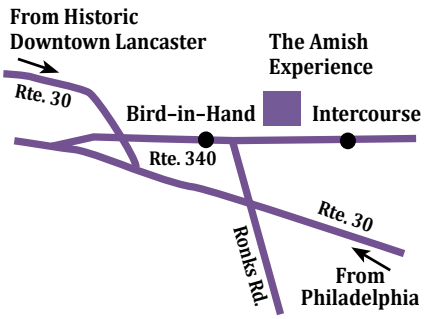

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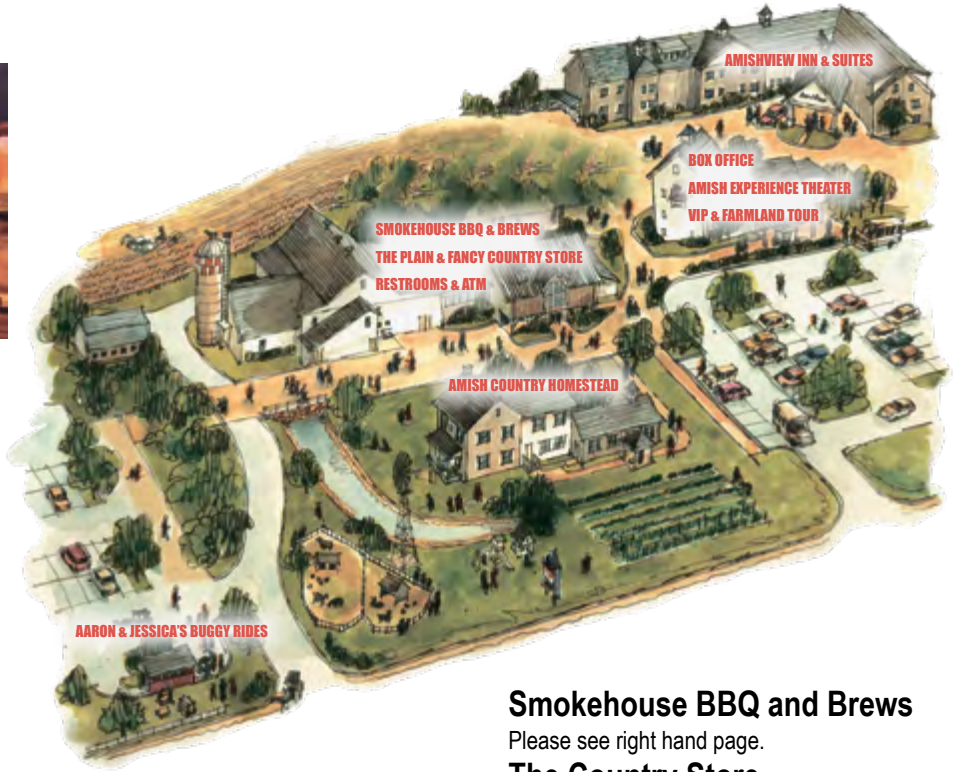

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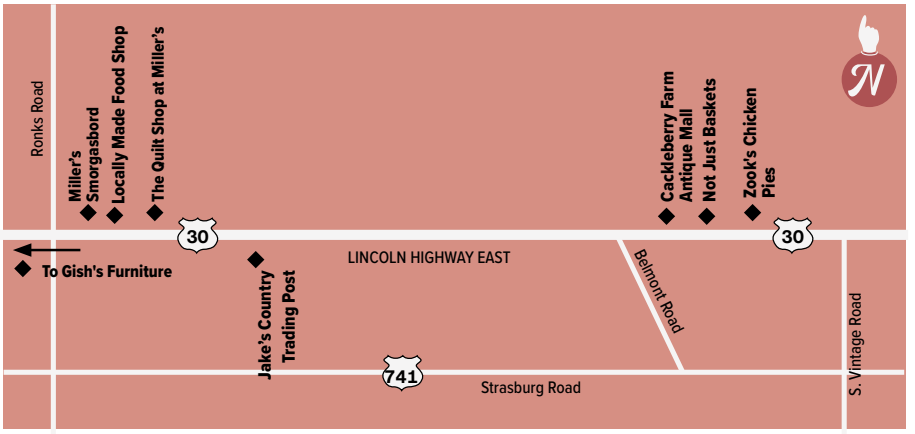
Paradise

A Small Town with a Big Heart



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise, just one of our many intriguing town names. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the

Cont'd on Page 26

The Gap Fire Company will be holding their 2023 Mud Sale. This is the same location as last year, located at the intersection of Brackbill Road and Houston Run Drive in Gap, just off of Route 30 and ½ mile west of the fire company.

*Friday, March 24th @ 5pm – Saturday, March 25th @ 8am "Gap Fire Company Sale" Houston Run Complex / 835 Houston Run Drive, Gap, PA 17527 * (717) 442–2300*

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Paradise

Cont'd from Page 24

frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that the Pike was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike").

The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The turnpike opened in 1795 as the first long–distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach shops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna."

Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope you can see that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!

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REMINDERS
for Visitors to Amish Country

Although thousands of visitors come to Lancaster County to experience a bit of the Amish lifestyle, the Amish are a private people and find the attention somewhat disconcerting. It is important to respect their feelings while you're visiting. With that in mind, here are a few tips for fostering good relations between the Amish and non–Amish.

NO PICTURES Please! Don't ask an Amish person to pose for a picture. Most will politely refuse. It is against our Amish neighbors convictions to have their pictures taken, except in very special situations. Please respect this belief and do not take photos without permission, just as you would like to have your beliefs respected.

HOLD YOUR HORSES Driving along area roads, you will no doubt encounter numerous Amish carriages, or "buggies," as visitors like to call them. Do not honk your horn, because the sound may frighten the horse and cause an accident. Instead, wait until it is safe to pass and then give the buggy plenty of room. Be sure not to cut back in the lane too sharply in front of the horse. The county's roads are generally wide enough that you should be able to pass most buggies without much of a problem.

NO TRESPASSING Do not trespass onto private Amish property for a closer look. Amish homes are not museums, and Amish people are not exhibits. Respect their property and privacy as you would like others to respect your own. You can get a good sense of Amish life at many area visitor attractions and on guided tours.

WAVING Do not be offended if the Amish do not wave back to your friendly gesture. With all the people who wave to them throughout a day, they would be waving back all day if they did!

A FINAL WORD Remember the Amish are not on vacation and are not costumed actors. They are real people going about their daily lives. They are not here to serve as tour guides or attractions for visitors. This, after all, is their home, so please respect their beliefs and lifestyle.

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Lititz

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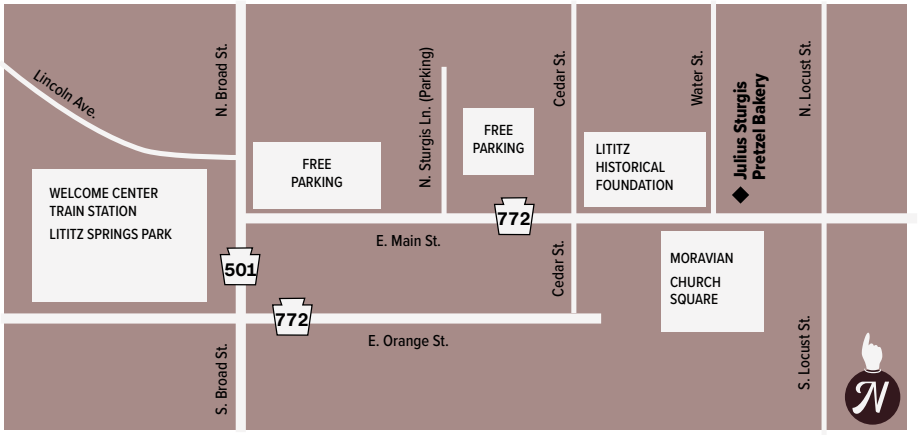


Celebrate the amazing talents of the Heart Artists. A silent auction and a special program featuring the Heart Artists, the night will be full of laughter, smiles and fabulous pieces of art. It is the Friendship Heart Gallery & Studio's biggest fundraiser of the year and supports daily operations, enabling the Heart Artists to continue their artistic journeys.

Thursday, March 23rd @ 5:30pm to 9pm "Friendship Heart Gallery & Studio's 20th Annual Benefit Auction" Grace Church, 501 West Lincoln Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543

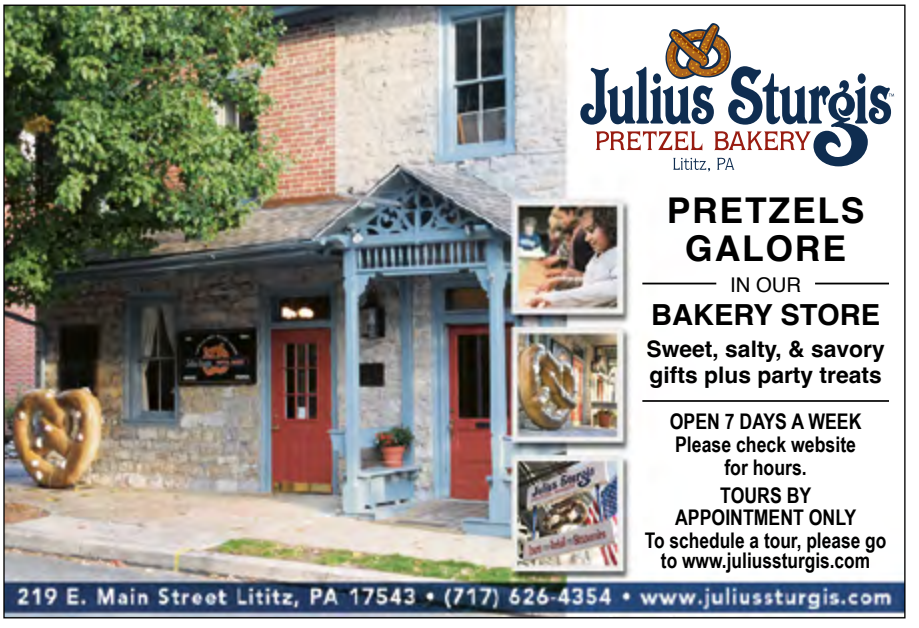
There is no place quite like Lititz, and everyone should plan to spend some time there while in Amish Country. Lititz Springs Park is a popular spot for locals, and the site for many community activities. Indeed, the town's 4th of July Celebration, begun in 1818, is reputedly the oldest continuing community–wide observance in the United States. Historians say the springs are what brought Indians to the area. Spearheads have been found nearby, dating back to 6,000 B.C. A recent local journal states that "Main Street was traveled by human beings for at least 10,000 years." When you come to Lititz, you'll want to travel Main Street, too.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. It was in the present–day Czech Republic that John Hus and followers founded the Moravian Church in 1457. Historians note that since this was 60 years before Luther's Reformation, the Moravians may lay claim to being the oldest organized Protestant Church. But over the course of the Thirty Years War, its 200,000 members nearly disappeared. In the 18th century, a renewal of the Moravian Church came through the patronage of Count Zinzendorf of Saxony. He invited all those persecuted for their faith to come to his lands in Saxony.

As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom by taking the perilous journey to the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with the main settlements becoming established in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Missionary work was integral to the faith, and preachers were sent from the Moravian community in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Zinzendorf himself arrived in America in 1742. A local resident, John Klein (Kline), was so moved by hearing Zinzendorf's preaching that he made arrangements to transfer his lands over to the Moravian community in 1755. It was in the following year that the town actually got the name of Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European Moravian reformers had taken refuge in 15th century.

In addition to mission work, music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.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For about a hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in town. A Brothers' House and Sisters' House were erected for the unmarried, although they did not live communally. It was not until 1855 that non–Moravians were allowed to own their own houses. The Brothers' House played a role in the American Revolution. George Washington ordered it used as a military hospital between 1777–78. Some 1,000 soldiers were nursed here, about half of whom died and were buried nearby.

Two names are linked forever with the history of Lititz—Sturgis and Sutter. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery is unlike any other. Inside, you get to try your hand at pretzel twisting. It's not as easy as it looks. Guests also may see the old brick bake ovens, as well as the more modern facilities. The bakery can be reached at 717.626.4354.

John Sutter was born in Switzerland and in 1834, fleeing creditors in Europe, arrived in New York. He headed west and sailed up the Sacramento River to begin a settlement. By 1848, work was being done on a mill when some gold flakes were spotted in the water. Soon Gold Rush fever struck and Sutter's land was overrun. Because of his need to be near Washington, D.C. while seeking reimbursement for his lost lands, the Sutters stayed one summer at the Springs Hotel in Lititz. They decided to settle there, and promptly bought a home and placed their children in school. The hotel once named the General Sutter Inn, is now known as the Bull's Head Inn. The Sutter home built in 1871 is across the street at 19 East Main St. It was in a Washington hotel room where Sutter died in 1880, still involved in unsuccessful attempts at redress from the government for his seized lands. Sutter, a Lutheran, was buried in the Moravian cemetery, normally reserved for Moravian church members.

Time to Celebrate! Break out the... Pretzels!

By Clinton Martin

Pretzels are old. The exact origins are debated, though undeniably even America's oldest Pretzel Bakery (1861, Lititz PA) came along somewhat recently in the snack's story... approximately 1200 years after the baked treat had been invented. Still, the town of Lititz, in Lancaster County's northern environ will forever have its history linked to the humble, yet delectable pretzel.

Julius Sturgis founded his pretzel bakery in Lititz, around the beginning of the Civil War. Today, visitors can still go to the Julius Sturgis pretzel bakery to try, buy, and twist pretzels.

But the rest of the town also gets in on the pretzel action in various ways.

On May 6, 2023, the whole town will celebrate their beloved pretzels at the annual Lititz Pretzel Fest. This one–day event is held at the Lititz Springs Park, which is a community hub for the town. A volunteer board of 25 members of the local Kiwanis Club organizes the event and uses it to raise funds for the various charity aims of the club. The 2022 iteration of the event raised $100,000 which the club was able to donate to various charities in the community. Tickets to the event cost $25 and can be purchased at www.lititzkiwanis.com. If you prefer the off–line approach to gathering info, call 717.560.2295.

Expect at least 20 vendors, offering delicious pretzel–based treats (both savory and sweet) alongside adult beverage tastings. Live music will be staged at the park's well–suited amphitheater. And parking is free. The event takes place rain or shine.

GOOD'S STORE

ROHRER SEEDS: Supplying Lancaster Farms & Gardens Since 1919

Originally written by Susan Burkholder

Revised & Updated by Ed Blanchette

For over fifteen years, as of March 2021, Earl Wenger maintained the seed packing machines at Rohrer Seeds on Old Philadelphia Pike, where generations of farmers and gardeners have gotten the supplies and seed they need for Lancaster County's famous farmland. Earl, back then as an eighty–one year old stated, "This machine's as old as I am", as he points to a mechanical apparatus that measures, packs, and seals the packs for small flower and vegetable seed packs. Earl showed us the precise parts used to measure the seeds (in a previous life, this seed–packing machine measured out medicine before capsules were invented).

Earl kept a list of the millions of seed packs filled by the machine during his time at Rohrer Seed. Earl, since then, has retired and handed that baton of excellence and responsibility to Matthew Hofstaedter. But event to this date, since last September 2022, they've packed 450,000 (+/–) packs of seed. There's also a machine to fill larger bags of seed.

Only one type of seed is allowed in the packing room at one time to avoid mix–ups, and the machines are always set to add a little extra seed to every pack.

It's March now, and the planting season is starting for Lancaster's many farmers. But for the folks who work at Rohrer Seed, the work is year–round. Rohrer Seed, located near Smoketown Airport, between Bird–In–Hand and Lancaster City, was founded in 1919. The Rohrer family has run the business ever since then. "The business started more with chemicals and agri products, with only 10% being lawn and garden. Now I'd say we're about 90% lawn and garden, and 10% agri products, "explained Rob Fisher, COO of Rohrer Seed.

Rohrer provides seed for farms, gardens, lawns, and wildlife. Rohrer Seeds are sold in more than 600 stores, including the four Good's Store locations located in East Earl, Ephrata, Quarryville, and Schaefferstown. You can see their ad on page 2 of this issue of Amish Country News.

Rohrer Seeds employ about fifty people, including seed biologists. We have trial gardens behind or warehouse. Before we sell anything, we grow it, and we test it ourselves. A lot of testing is tasting it and making sure we like the taste and how it looks. "All of our employees love to garden, "says Rob. "So, we tell them that if they need a break, they can go out and work in the garden."

"Our seeds are sourced from a bunch of different areas. Some are

Cont'd on Page 34

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Love It or Hate It
Scrapple is Cool Again

By Clinton Martin

Scrapple is everywhere in Lancaster County. Actually, the mysterious meaty brick is not walled in by Amish Country's borders, and in fact can be found throughout the PA, MD, DE region, even in hip urban centers like Philadelphia. Philly chef Adam Diltz (Elwood Restaurant) serves up a surprisingly trendy Venison Scrapple on weekends for the restaurant's formal tea service. What started out generations ago as a way to use literally every last scrap of meat, when "waste–not–want–not" really meant something to thrift–by–necessity area farmers, the deliciously "fringe" meat conglomerate is enjoying a renaissance among hipsters and foodies.

Within the last year, a love song, penned to honor the traditionally porcine loaf, has been racking up views on YouTube, written without irony by Robesonia (just over the northern border of Lancaster County) based songwriter Mitch Wolfe. The independent film, which premiered around the same time in Lancaster at the art–house (and distillery–eatery) Zoetropolis, "Scrapple Road" marks an epic–journey, modern–travelogue, discovery–documentary, which seeks to truly understand the mixture of folk lore and food science of PA Dutch Country's most famous mystery meat.

Film director Kurt Kolaja, raised in Northwest Pennsylvania, traveled the Mid–Atlantic US as a photographer for various TV stations. While he lived and worked in Scrapple's backyard, he didn't discover it for himself until his wife, Elise, purchased a block at their neighborhood grocery store, along Maryland's Eastern Shore.

That sizzling slice of porky goodness sparked a year–long obsession with the meat. He ended up making "Scrapple Road" by way of his extensive travels to unlock the mysteries surrounding scrapple. His film, and the journey he took to make it, can be experienced in depth at his website, www.scrappleroad.com.

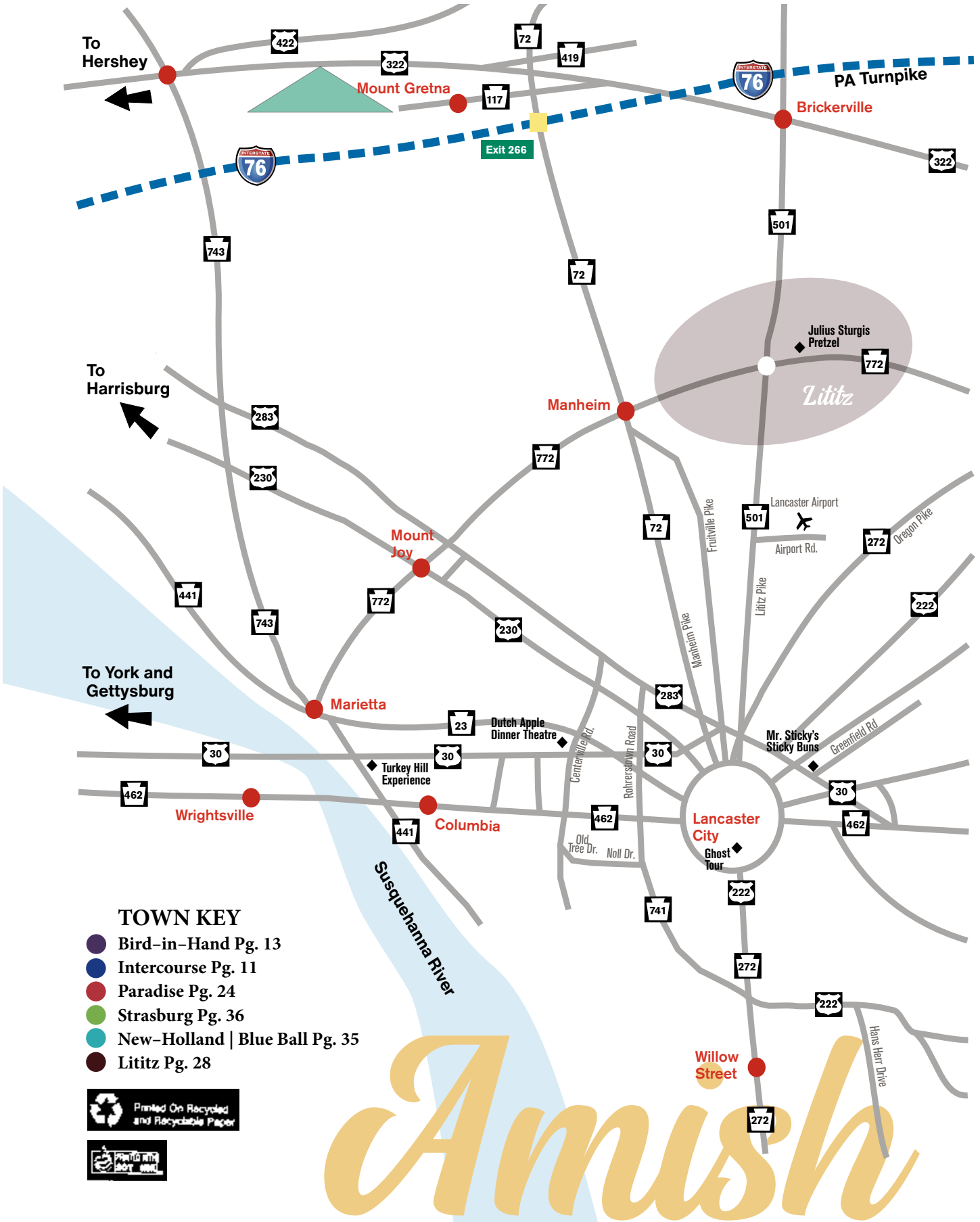
Scrapple is typically a pork–based meat which is formed into a brick. Corn meal (binding agent) and spices (flavor) are added to the meat mixture to finish the product. Almost everyone in the Mid–Atlantic who loves scrapple eats it as a breakfast meat, sliced off the brick and devoured as a square patty. From there, preferences and tactics for consumption differ wildly. Some love their scrapple deep–fried. Others only enjoy theirs pan–fried. Toppings are even more vociferously debated. Do you eat yours plain? With ketchup? Syrup?

Prefer to drink your scrapple instead of eating it? Yes, believe it or not, as a further testament to scrapple being "cool" again, the much loved and much maligned meat was brewed and distilled by regional brands for the truly epicurious.

Delaware's Dogfish Head Brewery, a craft brewery known for boldly brewing some pretty "out–there" creations, decided to do a collaboration with Rapa, the Delaware meat–product producer. Rapa happens to be the world's largest producer of scrapple, so it would stand to reason they had a few spare loaves to send over to Dogfish Head for an experimental "Beer–for–Breakfast" concept. Beer For Breakfast, which was originally released in 2014 (and is periodically re–released) is rated at 7.4 percent ABV and 30 IBUs.

Also from the same state (what is up with scrapple–nerds in Delaware?) The Painted Stave distillery created an "off–the–hoof" vodka imbued with scrapple essence and flavor through the use of real scrapple during the distilling process. The tipple is rumored to be blessed with a slight sage–and–peppercorn flavor to accompany the scrapple flavor.

To enjoy scrapple like the PA Dutch do, just visit any of the beloved local breakfast joints, and order up a slice and give it a try. If you like it, and you want to take some home, then you can pick some up at any of our local grocery stores. Kurt Kolaja spent significant time at Stoltzfus Meats, a grocery–eatery in the village of Intercourse that actually creates their own scrapple, but you can also look for other local producers like Kunzler, or John F. Martin, and of course if you don't mind expanding your horizons outside Lancaster County, you can always pick up a "macro–scrapple" from Rapa.



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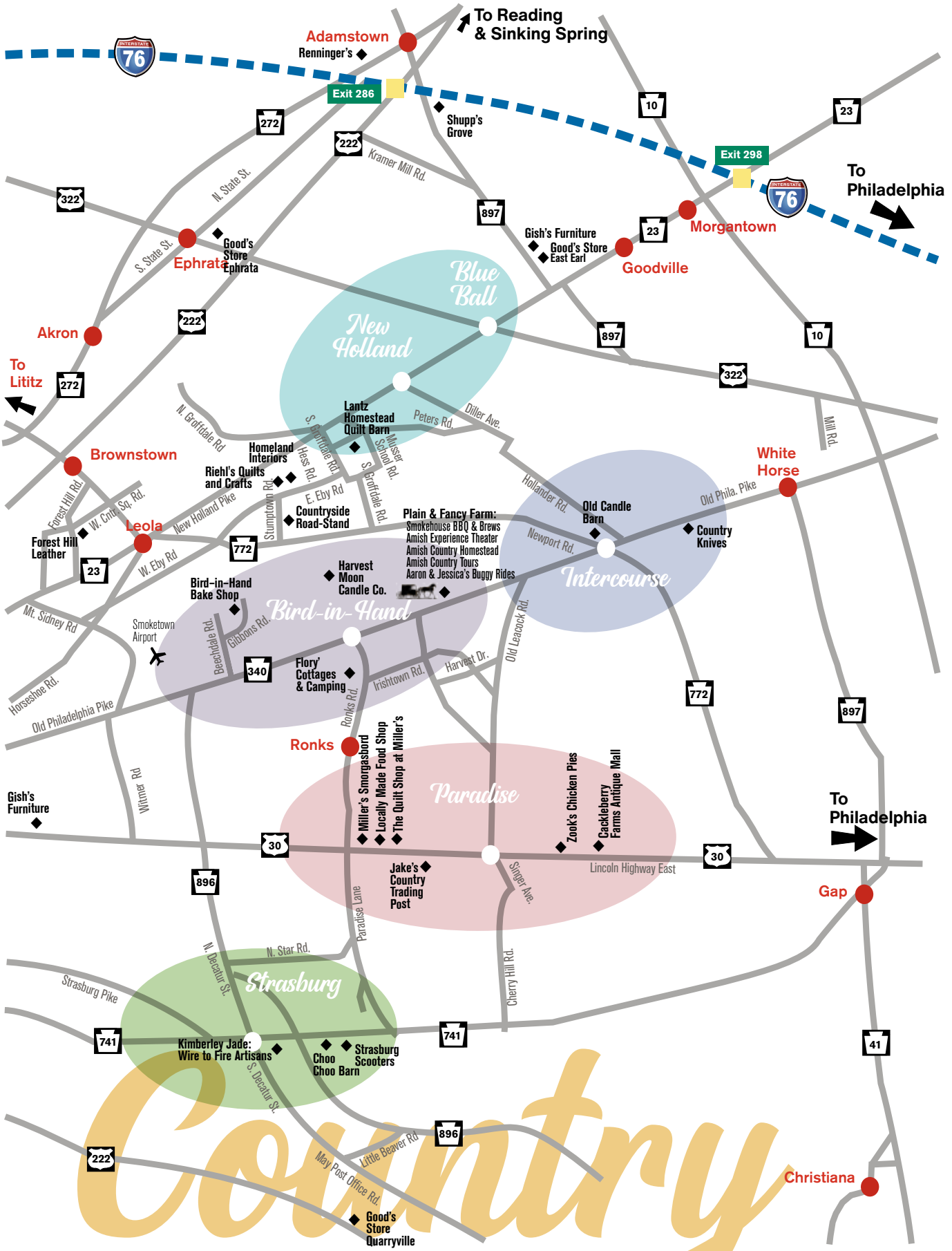
Amish


Adamstown
Renninger's
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Shupp's Grove
Exit 298
To Philadelphia
Morgantown
Gish's Furniture
Good's Store East Earl
Goodville
Good's Store Ephrata
Ephrata
Akron
To Lititz
Blue Ball
New Holland
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Country

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Good's Store: Rohrer Seeds

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from the West Coast. Some are from the Northeast. Some of our bulbs come from Amsterdam". "Our potatoes are grown in Maine. We're at the end of our potato growing season now, but we go through almost nine full truckloads (+/–) of potatoes". "Approximately three years ago, we started dealing with industrial hemp seed, that comes from Ukraine. The cultivars that we have are very special when it comes to fiber. Hemp is like a natural rebar, and people make hempcrete to build houses. In Europe, as of 2021, they were starting to put t in tires". To produce more industrial hemp seed, Rohrer Seed had planned to contract with farmers in Peru.

Another huge part of their business is grass seed. "Most of our grass seed comes from Oregon by rail car. Oregon has the best growing conditions in the country. Last year, we got about 20–truckloads of grass seed. A truckload is about 40,000 pounds, so that's about 800,000 lbs. of grass. "We do our mixes. If landscapers want special mixes, we can do that for them, "says Rob. "What's fun for us is that we get to choose what we like and how we want it. Someone else grows it in the best growing conditions for this area. Our philosophy has always been to get the highest quality seed you can get," Rob tells us.

"The single most popular seed packet we grow is a the Detroit Red Beet. Anywhere else in the country, it won't be that way. But in Lancaster County, people love their beets."

Since Covid–19 began, "Our online sales have been up 1,500% (+/–) over the last couple of years," says Rob. "People finally have more time to do the gardening they always wanted to do." In the shipping room, we meet Jim Gamber (pictured above and right) who runs the shipping department. Jim has worked at the business since 1979. But his introduction to Rohrer Seeds came years earlier, when he was a child growing up in Ethiopia. "My parents were missionaries with Eastern Mennonite Missions. Every year, Rohrer Seeds donated seeds to the mission families. They would write a wishlist, and Rohrer's would give the mission what they could." "We could grow food year–around in Ethiopia. In the dry season, we had to haul water from a spring. During the wet season, it would rain daily, and we saw rainbows almost every day."

Jim was one of four children, and the mission was located far away from any supermarket. "We could buy some food, like eggs, from the locals, but mostly, we ate what we raised in the garden. Almost every type of seed we got from Rohrer Seeds did well, except we couldn't grow sweet corn. So, we ate young field corn instead." Instead of planting the seeds in rows, Jim's father planted the seeds in a 2 x 2' plot, then carefully dug out and re–planted anything that grew. "We didn't thin the crops," says Jim. "Nowadays, we buy a pack of seeds for 99 cents and pull a lot of them out. But when seeds are scarce, you don't do that." As a young man, Jim was back in America, living in Lancaster and looking for a job. To his surprise, he discovered Rohrer Seeds was looking for a worker. "I thought, I know that name! I hadn't known where Rohrer Seeds was located." He applied for the job and now has been working at Rohrer Seeds for over forty years. "I love being able to help people grow healthy food."

New Holland & Blue Ball

The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania — 60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square–mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found willing ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than $.04 an acre). By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area today called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timbers of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland.

These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, with assistance thought to have included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

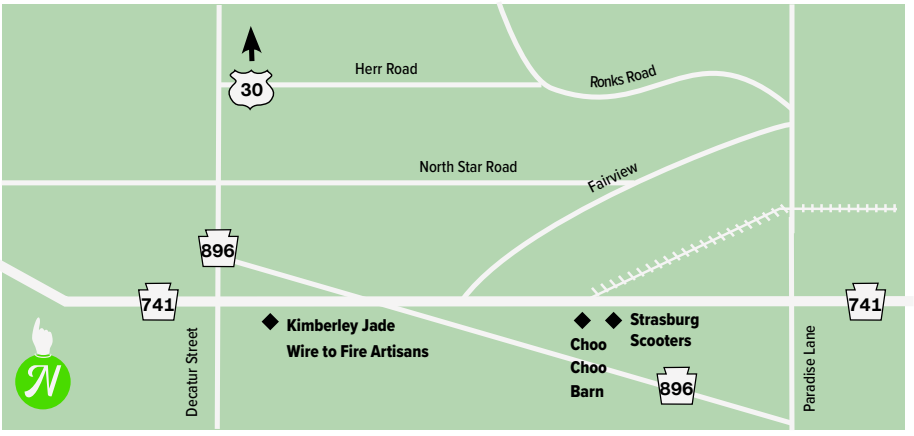
This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.

Craft & Vendor Fair located at the Honey Brook Firehouse upstairs in the Banquet Hall.

Saturday, April 1st – 8am to 2pm "2nd Annual Spring Craft & Vendor Fair" 679 Firehouse Ln, Honey Brook, PA 19344–8710

Strasburg

A Town of Trains & Heritage



All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few ––– the Strasburg Rail Road, Sight & Sound Theatres, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town."

Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillion, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased

Join us for our annual Spring Celebration: Auction & BBQ on our unified campus! This year we are excited to celebrate all together in one location. The event will include a chicken BBQ, auction, bake sale, and kids activities featuring an inflatable obstacle course, face painting, carnival games, and balloon animals! We hope you will save the date to join us for this fun event. You are very welcome to invite family, friends, or anyone you think may be interested. This is a community event!

Friday, April 28th @ 12:30pm to 8:00pm
"Spring Celebration: Auction & BBQ"

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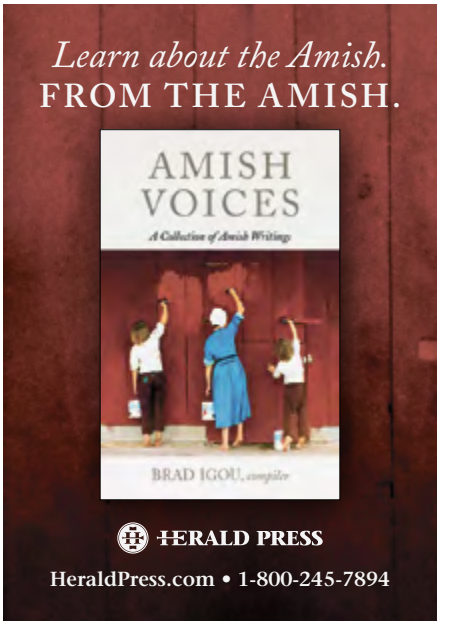

considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town, USA!

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Publisher's Message

Perception... The Ant or the Grasshopper?

Sitting at my desk as I ponder the flow of the Spring Issue of Amish Country News and this entry of the Publisher's Message, I find myself a bit conflicted. Traditionally, we would come off either what some would call a traditional winter or that of a harsh winter, based on one's perception of the season. But this past winter, which has been known to last up into and through April, has been just a blip here in Amish Country, Central Pennsylvania. Mother Nature has certainly been fickle, that's for sure.

So, the question is: Was it the Ant or the Grasshopper in the way of the weather? It's hard to say what's in store for us as we enter another spring season. That, of course, brings to mind preparation. Do we continue to put those priorities and bullet points into motion that keep us on our toes and ready for whatever may come to pass, like the Ant? Or do we go the way of the Grasshopper, accept what is, and move forward with the current state of the environment, as it has been handed out?

Though Punxsutawney Phil has handed down the ruling of six more weeks of winter, for the record, it sure seems as though spring is already with us in one form or another. My personal perception is to view things from the Ant's point of view, not the Grasshopper's. For most of us here in Amish Country, we are preparing for great seasonal fun in 2023 as we currently prepare for you and your family to join us.

Great food again is waiting to be tasted at Miller's Smorgasbord, Smokehouse BBQ & Brews, Zooks Chicken Pies, Bird–in–Hand Bake Shop, Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery, and Mr. Sticky's Homemade Sticky Buns. For that treasure hunter in each one of us looking to find that great plunder, then Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall, Renninger's Antique & Farm Market, Wire to Fire Artisans, Riehl's Quilts & Crafts, and Countryside Road–Stand are where "X" should mark the spot on your map. If you're the type to get the adrenaline flowing, these are spots for the thrill–seekers. You can take a ride in a buggy with Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides or a scooter ride at Strasburg Scooters. Finally, for those desiring more invigoration of the different senses all at once, then the Amish Experience Theater or Dutch Apple Dinner Theater would be your coup–de–gras! Who knows? But one thing's for certain, there's lots to do and see that await you in Amish Country now that springtime is finally here.

Remember that this is still only the start of what could be a pretty wondrous year. It's like the saying goes: It's what we make of it. So let's all decide to plan, like the Ant. Together, we can make it all worthwhile! Here's hoping you all have a positive and prosperous 2023. Happy Spring from Amish Country News!

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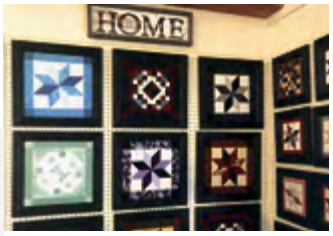

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